

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace paragraph [0012] with the following amended paragraph:

[0012] Moreover, in the zoom lens system disclosed in ~~Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application~~ United States Patent No. 5,999,329, although the zoom ratio is approximately 3 $\times$ , the f-number in the longest focal length condition is as high as 7. Thus, this is not a bright zoom lens system.